The
REPORTER
For Conscience' Sake

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NSBRO Given Special Tribute By Two Top Gov't Officials

On September 21, special tribute was paid by two top government officials to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors and some forty representatives from different church groups for their positive contribution to the Nation's welfare through the conscientious objector work program.

The Director of the Department of Defense Mobilization, Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, and the National Director of the Selective Service System, Lieutenant General Lewis B. Hershey, both speaking at a special luncheon meeting at the Continental Hotel, Washington, D. C., on September 21, commended the group for providing such an unusual contribution to the Nation's health, safety, and interest.

Flemming, who is also an acting member of President Eisenhower's cabinet, declared, "We want to express our deep appreciation for the cooperative and constructive manner in which you are dealing with what could have been a very difficult problem." Indicating that his views were shared by President Eisenhower and other government leaders, Dr. Flemming said that the churches and voluntary agencies which have given employment to conscientious objectors in the civilian work program have done a "splendid job" in making the work program "achieve constructive ends", and in providing a foundation for a "spiritual breakthrough which was our only hope for establishing world peace.

Dr. Flemming concluded by saying, "In behalf of President Eisenhower and in behalf of all who have worked in this area, thank you very much for what you have done."

General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of the Selective Service System, commented that when Congress ordered conscientious objectors to perform alternative service in 1951, during the Korean War, the law "required that we assign COs to work but didn't say anybody had to employ them."

The National Director of Selective Service indicated that he was proud of the things accomplished by conscientious objectors in the work program. "In the

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Doctor's Draft To End Next Year

The Defense Department has decided to let the special draft law for doctors die next year.

Officials disclosed today that the military would rely instead on the regular draft to get its physicians and dentists. It was understood, however, that Congress would be asked to insert a special provision in the draft act to permit calls of doctors or dentists in time of need.

Conscientious objectors in the medical profession were caught in the doctors draft the same as their colleagues. However, COs were allowed to perform

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Left to right: Dr. C. N. Hostetter, President of Messiah College; General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service; Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, Director of the Department of Defense Mobilization; Dr. W. Harold Row, Executive Secretary, Brethren Service Commission.

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NSBRO GIVEN TRIBUTE

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name and objective of religious liberty," he said, "you have done these things."

General Hershey concluded by saying, "I appreciate what has been done and what will be done" to retain the right to religious freedom and to promote the principle of separation of church and state.

Mr. Victor Olsen, Director of the Selective Service office for conscientious objectors, brought the religous groups comments from military and civilian leaders praising the COs for the good work they are doing on their work assignments.

He read a clipping from a recent issue of "Stars and Stripes", the unofficial newspaper of the armed forces in Europe, telling how members of the historic peace churches, driven from Europe by persecution, had now returned to help rebuild the ruins of World War II.

"The manner in which the news article is written leaves no doubt how the GIs feel toward the COs who are working in Europe," he said. "I do not know how they could have been more complimentary."

He read a letter from Brigadier General Richard S. Whitcomb praising the work of COs in Korea, and also a communication from the Peruvian Embassy telling of the work COs are doing with the LeTourneau projects in that land.

Mr. Olsen concluded the report of the Selective Service administration with the observation that the program for objectors has been working so smoothly for the government that he has handled it all with the aid of only one assistant, adding, "this is unparalleled efficiency from the standpoint of government."

Dr. C. N. Hostetter, Chairman of the Mennonite Central Committee, gave a brief response on behalf of NSBRO and related agencies. Expressing appreciation to both the legislative and executive branches of government for the alternative service provisions, Dr. Hostetter indicated that their action had resulted in two things (1) They had made possible the extension of a certain spiritual witness; and (2) the national health, welfare, and interest of the Nation were much better served by utilizing the services of conscientious objectors in a way which they could sincerely support.

Dr. Hostetter stated that the group was particularly appreciative for the alertness of government officials to their concerns, their accessibility and availability for interviews, and for their favorable representation of the work program to the legislative branch of government. He expressed the hope that the same attitudes on the part of government officials would also apply to two items of unfinished business: the frozen fund and amnesty for World War II COs.

Dr. W. Harold Row, Executive Secretary of the Brethren Service Commission, and chairman of the Board of Directors for NSBRO, presided at the meeting. He thanked the government leaders for their praise of the work done by objectors and said, "Much credit must be given to General Hershey. As so many denominational representatives here have remarked, his attitude and that of Selective Service officials under him has been exemplary and we have achieved constructive ends for which we had hardly dared hope."

SUPREME COURT ASKED TO REVIEW LEGAL POINT IN CO CASES

The Supreme Court has been asked to decide if the local board's failure to post the names of advisers deprive conscientious objectors of due process of law. The point involves a requirement of the regulations which has been changed since the cases were originally tried in the district courts.

Under old Selective Service regulations local boards were required to appoint advisers for registrants and post the names of these advisers at the local board. The courts have held, in the two cases presently seeking Supreme Court review, that failure to do this on the part of the local board did not deprive the registrant of any procedural right.

Actually, in both cases the registrants had been classified I-O by their local boards and accepted civilian work assignments. In the one case the registrant had worked for four months and then left the job. He went back to the local board and discovered that the names of advisers were not posted, and then used this fact as a defense point in his trial after being indicted for violation of the Selective Service Act.

Soon after this the Selective Service regulations were changed to make the appointment of advisers discretionary with the local board.

DOCTOR'S DRAFT

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alternative civilian service. World War II service in CPS camps was credited along with military service as "active duty" in determining the category of physicians.

The doctor draft expires next June 30. It has been in effect since September, 1950, after the outbreak of the Korean fighting. At that time the armed forces found they were unable to get enough physicians and dentists as volunteers.

The law was extended in 1951, 1953 and again in 1955. More than 30,000 physicians, dentists and veterinarians have been called to duty under its provisions.

In recent months, however, the military has seldom resorted to the drafting of large numbers of doctors, primarily because enough have volunteered.

The American Medical Association and American Dental Association have long protested that the law was discriminatory.

Officials explained that an adequate supply of doctors could now be maintained under the regular draft because of the large number of young men who had been deferred for medical education.

Under the regular draft, men under 35 may be inducted. The age limit under the doctor draft is 50. Only about 200 more doctors are expected to be called before the law expires, officials said.

The first word that the department would abandon the special act came from C. Joseph Stetler, director of the law department of the A. M. A. He testified before a special Senate committee on lobbying. Defense officials confirmed it later.

OLSEN REPORTS ON I-W WORK PROGRAM

At a luncheon meeting of the NSBRO Consultative Council on September 21 (see front page article for further story) Mr. Olsen, Selective Service National Headquarters administrator for the CO work program, gave a report on the four years of operations.

According to his statistics, 2,594 registrants are currently at work, 3,829 have completed their two years of alternate service, 3,973 COs have not been examined, 1,016 COs have been examined and found acceptable, and 718 COs are not being called because they are fathers. This makes a total of 12,130 registrants classified as conscientious objectors under the 1951 law.

The monthly average of assignments to the civilian work program has been 65 less per month than assignments to civilian public service during World War II.

Majority Volunteer

The 6,423 conscientious objectors who are now at work or have completed their service have mostly been volunteers. 85 per cent volunteerd before the date they would have been inducted according to ordinary procedures. Only 1 2/3 per cent did not volunteer and would not agree with the local board as to their work assignment and were ordered to work by the National Director as provided by Selective Service regulations.

In the four years of operation involving 6,423 conscientious objectors there have been only 26 delinquents. In this connection "delinquents" refers to those who were assigned to civilian work and after accepting employment left the job or became delinquent in some other manner. This figure does not include several hundred who refused to accept the work to which they were ordered.

About 1,700 agencies involving employment in the United States and throughout the world have been approved for the employment of conscientious objectors. No agency has withdrawn its cooperation since the program began.

The civilian work program is operating in every state and territory and in over 40 foreign countries. While there are conscientious objectors from most of the 48 states, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Kansas still furnish 50 per cent of the total number.

Fifty-five per cent of the conscientious objectors in the civilian work program are assigned to state, county, and municipal institutions. Thirty-two per cent are assigned to religious and other hospitals. Eight per cent are assigned to foreign missionary and service assignments. Five per cent are assigned to federal government agencies.

A survey of the religious affiliations of the conscientious objectors in the civilian work program indicates 76 religious denominations are represented. The 15 religious denominations with the highest number of conscientious objectors have about the same proportion as was true in World War II.

Noting that the majority of all assignments have been to some type of hospital, Mr. Olsen expressed a belief that "a pacifist, not believing in violence, is the ideal attendant in mental hospitals. We know, and I am sure you know, some of the reasons why mental hospitals were handicapped in the past. At least, now in some of these institutions, real curative treatment is available."

Mr. Olsen made special reference to the projects in which conscientious objectors are working as guinea pigs for scientific research. Noted especially among these projects are the ones at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado, and those at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. Mr. Olsen stated that, "Speaking in terms of service to mankind, I doubt if anyone could set up a program, with more value to the Nation, than these scientific and medical research projects."

Conservation of Human Resources

Mr. Olsen credited the success of the civilian work program to the kind of work to which conscientious objectors can be assigned. "The present program deals exclusively with conservation of human resources. I am convinced one of the reasons the work program is operating so effectively and without complication, is because most registrants, and the Nation's people, can understand the problems concerning the physically and mentally handicapped, and also the problems created by war, pestilence, and disaster. During World War II, most of our work camps were assigned to conservation of natural resources, and this fact in part, created some doubt amongst the uninformed concerning the importance of that program."

Eberspacher— Again Denied I-O

On September 7, 1956, the Presidential Appeal Board again gave a 1-A classification to a conscientious objector whose claim has perhaps gone through more appeals than any other under the present draft. Dean Eberspacher, a Methodist CO from Nebraska, has appealed to the state appeal board three times, has refused induction twice, and had two Presidential Appeals.

Since Eberspacher is over 26 years of age the latest I-A received from the Presidential Appeal Board will probably not result in any further action in his case since it is unlikely that he will be called for induction. One observer who had occasion to examine the Selective Service file in this case remarked that he did not see how a person could possibly do more to prove his sincerity. It still appears almost possible for some officials to understand that there can be such a process as religious growth.

Another disturbing aspect of this case was the complete reversal on the part of the Department of Justice. In the prior recommendation the Department had concluded that Eberspacher was sincere in his claim as a conscientious objector and recommended that he be so classified. However, in the second recommendation, written only a little over a year later, they completely reversed themselves and decided that he was not sincere. No attempt was made to explain or justify the contradictory recommendations.

First Report on Reserves Indicates Failure Despite Publicity Barrage

The National Security Training Commission has submitted its first annual report to Congress as required under the Reserve Forces Act of 1955. This report indicates that the six-month reserve program, whereby young men between the ages of 17 and 18½ could enlist directly in the Reserves and take six-months training followed by 7½ years Reserve duty, has not lived up to expectations. The legislation provided for about 100,000 enlistees in the first year. Actually only about 40,000 have volunteered.

This poor showing is despite the fact that the Department of Defense, including all of the armed forces, have engaged in an unprecedented publicity and propaganda campaign. The National Security

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HOPI INDIANS AGAIN PROTEST DRAFT

At meetings on August 4 and 5, 1956, the Hopi Indians of Northern Arizona again protested the infringement of federal laws upon their religious and community life. Among other points of protest they object to the draft law which requires their young men to go to war.

The Hopi Chief Katchongva said, "Hopis never participate in or aid any war effort. It is up to the Hopi and other religions to not war. I am very happy that a few, even with very small number, have refused to go to war. Though they have been placed in Washington prisons, they are faithful ones. They are the ones who are holding this Life Plan. They are the ones who are in right with Maasau. All these war efforts are contrary to the teachings of our Great Spirit. So it is better to be right with him than to follow the majority who are only running after something they have created by and for themselves, something that will destroy them in the end."

"Sea Going Cowboys"

Two ex-CPS men are part of a three-man team of volunteer "sea-going cowboys" caring for the 52 head of livestock presently in route from the United States to Russia as a gesture of peace and good will by the Heifer Project, Inc.

Reverend Mark Y. Schrock of Nappanee, Indiana, was a director in CPS Camps No. 100, Oneida, New York, and No. 21, Cascade Locks.

Milo J. Yoder was assigned to CPS Camp No. 6 in Lagro, Indiana, then to Walhalla, Michigan, where he became director, then to Wellston, Michigan, and later as director of Camp No. 34, Bowie, Maryland.

The third "sea-going cowboy" is Reverend Paul E. Miller of Adel, Iowa.

The shipment of cattle was the result of an official meeting of two Heifer project volunteer workers with the seed purchasing mission from Russia which visited Iowa during the summer of 1955. The Russians reported to the Soviet Department of Agriculture and negotiations were completed through the staff of the embassy in Washington.

The Soviet Union is providing all transportation charges and return passage for the three volunteer cattlemen. It was pointed out by the Heifer Project that it would be cheaper for the Soviet Union to buy cattle in Northern Europe if cattle were the only consideration.

Two CO Convictions Reversed By Appeal Courts

The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed the conviction of Mitchell Dobrenen recently on the basis of the Supreme Court decision in the Gonzales case. Dobrenen, a member of the Molokan faith from California, had been convicted in the district court on September 20, 1954. After his conviction, in an entirely independent action, the Supreme Court decided in the Gongales case that registrants must be furnished a copy of the Department of Justice recommendation and given an opportunity to reply to it. This past summer when the Court of Appeals considered Dobrenen's case, it decided that the decision in the Gonzales case should apply to Dobrenen and therefore he was successful on appeal.

The Ninth Circuit also has reversed the conviction of Albert Stain, a member of the Assembly of God Church who had also been convicted in 1954. In this case the conviction was reversed by the Ninth Circuit because the Selective Service System had illegally refused to reopen his classification and because the "insincerity of defendant was not a proper issue.

Chaplain's Guide Total Nears 4,000

As of the end of September 1956, NSBRO has sent out 3804 pamphlets entitled "Chaplains Guide to CO's in the Armed Forces".

This number, added to those distributed by CCCO, AFSC and other agencies, would give a grand total approaching 5,000.

The pamphlet, published jointly by NSBRO and CCCO, is being distributed by both organizations and is available to chaplains free of charge. Approximately 2800 of the 3800 were sent directly to chaplains. The remaining 1,000 were distributed to interested counselors, ministers, and agencies.

RESERVES REPORT

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Training Commission report gives a detailed account of the recruiting effort. Some idea of the extensiveness of this effort is given by the summary of radio and television activity, which is only a partial report and does not include any of the publicity through magazines, newspapers and other media. It is estimated by the Commission that a total of 6,357 announcements concerning the six-months reserve program were heard and viewed in American homes a total of 2,068,400,000 times. They further estimate that these announcements reached the Nation's 48,000,000 families an average of 21 times each.

It was estimated that donated public service radio and TV time was worth in excess of $7,956,000. One special news reel was shown to 38,000,000 individuals. Eighteen special articles were carried in 11 magazines with a circulation of over 21,000,000 people. In addition to millions of newspaper readers who were exposed to special articles and editorials, the armed forces prepared for distribution directly to teenagers 14 special booklets and pamphlets in the amount of 20,350,000 copies. Additional miscellaneous activities during the year included 22,839 speeches delivered to audiences numbering 1,724,830; 555,220 individual recruiting contacts; 7,573 special meetings; and 9,969 civic group showings of TV films. The failure of the six-months Reserve program is only one aspect of the Pentagon's continuing worry about manpower. Caught between a desire to balance the budget and the rising cost of weapons, the Department of Defense would like to cut the number of manpower. However, there are now some doubts as to whether the Reserves can realistically supply the quality of manpower needed. There are some indications that there may be an increased emphasis on the regular armed forces, with intent made to build up a professional career army.

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